

Nevada Mountains. He truly is an American hero. You should be extremely proud of your husband, and I want you to know that citizens in Nevada and across this great nation appreciate his selfless service. Your daughter Gabriella and your unborn son, Jason Christian, will forever know the dedication and patriotism of their father.

Mr. President, I am very proud of Jason's patriotism and devotion to duty. I am also extremely grateful for his exemplary service to our country. I know all Nevadans feel the same way. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family throughout these difficult times.

THE UNTOLD STORY OF MURDER-SUICIDE IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, according to a report on murder-suicides released last month by the Violence Policy Center, a firearm is the weapon most frequently used to murder the victims, with the offenders then taking their own lives. The study notes that easy access to a gun was the decisive component for almost all of the murder-suicides. Of the 54 murder-suicides reviewed in this study, 52 were firearm-related. If these people had not had access to a firearm, some of these deaths may not have occurred.

There is a piece of legislation in the Senate I believe would help prevent easy access to firearms by felons, those determined to be mentally ill by a court, those individuals with domestic violence misdemeanors and restraining orders, and others prohibited by law from owning a firearm. In April of last year, Senator JACK REED introduced the Gun Show Background Check Act. The Reed bill, which is supported by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, extends the Brady bill background check requirement to all sellers of firearms at gun shows. I cosponsored that bill because I believe it is critical that we do all we can to prevent guns from getting into the wrong hands.

Mr. President, I believe this piece of legislation would be one of many things we can do to address the problem of easy access to guns.

THE HOME HEALTH MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2002

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise today, as an original cosponsor of the Home Health Modernization Act of 2002, to express my strong support for a clarification of the definition of "homebound" with respect to eligibility for home health services under the Medicare program.

I want to tell you about Ms. Pamela Wolfenbarger of Fayetteville, AR. Ms. Wolfenbarger is a quadriplegic as the result of an accident and has devoted the last twenty years to raising her son. Now that her son is grown, she would like to return to school so that she might become more self-sufficient

financially. Due the current Medicare homebound policy, Ms. Wolfenbarger is unable to do so, nor can she leave her home to go clothes or food shopping, despite offers of assistance from a tremendous support group in her community. Ms. Wolfenbarger needs the services of a home health nurse to assist her in personal care, dressing, and transferring from her bed to her wheelchair.

The current Medicare statute states: "While an individual does not have to be bedridden to be considered to be confined to the home, the condition of the individual should be such that there exists a normal inability to leave home, that leaving home requires a considerable and taxing effort by the individual, and that absences from the home are infrequent or of relatively short duration, or are attributable to the need to receive medical treatment".

Problems have arisen because the terms "infrequently" and for periods of "relatively short duration" are comparative terms with no point of comparison, which has led the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to interpret the statutory coverage criteria for home health as requiring patients to remain in their homes virtually at all times, except those times specifically excluded in the statute, in order to remain eligible for coverage of home health services. As a consequence, many beneficiaries who are dependent upon Medicare home services and medical equipment for survival, including Ms. Wolfenbarger, are being unnecessarily restricted to their homes out of fear that they will lose their home health benefits.

I believe we need to correct this problem for people like Ms. Wolfenbarger, and that is why I have joined Senators COLLINS, BOND and CLELAND in introducing S. 2085, to clarify the homebound definition. Under this important legislation, the current requirement that beneficiaries be allowed "only infrequent absences of short duration" would be eliminated. By doing so, reasonable absences from the home will be allowed and we will bring the home health benefit into the 21st century. I urge my Senate colleagues to support the Home Health Modernization Act of 2002.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred on May 19, 2001 in Fargo, ND. Two black men were assaulted late at night outside of their apartment. Just prior to the assault,

the assailants used racial epithets directed at the victims. Angela Schussler, Thomas Schussler, and Robert Schussler were arrested in connection with the incident, which police described as being "racially motivated."

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

EARLY MILLER: BIRTH OF A PLAYWRIGHT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I would like to commend to my colleagues an article from the New York Times reviewing a new production of Arthur Miller's play, "The Man Who Had All the Luck."

Produced by the Williamstown Theater Festival last summer, this revival has earned acclaim for its extraordinary adaptation of this work by one of America's finest playwrights.

The critic has offered special praise for the lead actors, Chris O'Donnell and Samantha Mathis as well as Sam Robards.

The Williamstown Theater Festival is a tremendous organization which brings great drama to the Berkshires every summer, with some of the most talented performers and directors in the country. This production is now brilliantly staged on Broadway and I know that audiences will enjoy this timeless and poignant American story.

I ask unanimous consent that the article from the New York Times be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, May 2, 2002]

EARLY MILLER: BIRTH OF A PLAYWRIGHT

(By Bruce Weber)

Unthreateningly handsome, with cornfed brawn, a polite-to-old-ladies manner and an earnest bleat in the voice, the young actor Chris O'Donnell certainly has the traditional mien of the All-American boy. He's a natural for the lead role in "The Man Who Had All the Luck," Arthur Miller's 1940 play, subtitled "A Fable," about America and the burdens of unmitigated good fortune, which opened in a stirring and rich revival last night on Broadway at the American Airlines Theater. I mean, he's really a natural. Known for playing sidekicks in popular films—he was Robin in two of the "Batman" movies, and he starred with Al Pacino in "Scent of a Woman"—Mr. O'Donnell had never appeared onstage before. "The Man Who Had All the Luck" was produced last summer at the Williamstown Theater Festival.

Mr. O'Donnell played the title character, David Beeves, a young Midwesterner who, with seemingly unearned fate, gets the girl, the business, the land and the legacy, while all of those around him fall victim to life's vicissitudes and suffer enormous disappointments. His performance then made it clear that some gifts—like effortless charisma and